come extinct in the country and if so, the remedial steps taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) (i) Two national parks are being considered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) for additions to the Register for the world's Threatened Protected Areas because of reasons shown below, which are consdiered by the IUCN as threats to these national park:

Name of the National Park	Threats considered by IUCN
(1) Kaziranga National Park..	. Proposed upstream Oil Refinery.
2) GulfofKutch(Marine National Park..	Removal of mangroves, land-based industrial pollution, over-fishing, oil from ships.

(ii) As regards the Kaziranga National Park, there is a proposal to set up an refinery near it. But no final decision has been taken by Government of India in this regard.

(iii) As regards the Gulf of Kutch Marine National Park, there is a developing industrail complex in and around the Sikka Port, a part of which has been included in the park. The proposals for new industrial projects in the area, wheih are referred to Government of India for clearance, are approved only after a thorough assessment of their likely impact on the Marine National Park has ben made. The State Government of Gujarat has also taken several measures to protect the Marine Park e. g., ban on oyster fishing, removal of mangrove wood, stoppage of extraction of sand and corals from the park, etc. and imposition of restrictions on 'dumping of brine waste in the sea around the park. The Government of India has also been requesting the State Government from time to time to take measures to protect the Marine National Park form the adverse impact of the local industrial activities and to monitor the movement of ships within the area of the park.

(b) The informaion is being collcted and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Waiting list of Telephones in Hubli Exchange

719. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hubli telephone exchange has a waiting list of about 5000 applications; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to wipe out this list?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) The waiting list as on November, 90 is 3432.

(b) (i) A 3000 lines main exchange is likely to be commissioned by December, 1991.

(ii) This exchange is proposed to be expanded from 3000 to 5500 lines during the 8th Five Year Plan which would wipe out the present waiting list progressively.

Four-laning of Ahmedabad-Bombay National Highway

720. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for four-laning of existing Ahmedabad-Bombay National Highway;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the proposal was accepted and included in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any bank assistance or Asian Development Bank assistance has been sanctioned for the project; and

(d) whether Government have prepared any plan to complete the project; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RES-SOURCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUR FACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANU BHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) There is neither a proposal for four-laning the en tire stretch of National Highway No. 8 from Ahmedabad to Bombay (Length 502 km), nor was this provided for in the VII Five Year Plan. However, approximately 28 kms out of the total length are already 4-lane, widening to 4-lanes is in progress in about 86 kms more and Annual Plan 1990-91 contains provision for taking up four-laning in another 100 kms.

(c) No, Sir. Upto now no assistance for 4-laning of any portion of the existing National Highway between Ahmedabad and Bombay has been approved either by the Asian Development Bank or any other Bank.

(d) No, Sir.

New national highways in Gujarat

721. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL:

SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABH-SHANKER BHATT:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRAN-SPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government "of Gujarat have requested the Government of India to declare five new national highways in Gujarat; and

(b) what is the reaction of the Govern ment of India thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RE-SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL ' CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUR, FACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) In June, 1990, the Chief Minister, Gujarat had pro-posed for declaration of 6 State roads as National Highways. Further additions in the National Highways System would depend on the funds to be earmarked for it in the 8th Five Year Plan.

Re-introduction of ship service between Rameshwaram and Talaimannar

722. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the passenger ship from Rameshwaram to Talaimannar has been stopped;

(b) if so, whether there is any propsal to re-introduce this important service to enable foreign tourists specially from France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and Singapore to come to India.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RE-SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) The ferry service between Rameshwaram and Talaimanner remains suspended due to security and logistical reasons. Given the prevailing situation in Sri Lanka, it is difficult to say when the ferry service can be resumed.

Ship-Building yards at Tuticorin port

723. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of SURFAC TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to have two ship-building yards at Tuticorin Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost involved therein; and

(c) by when this yard construction project is likely to be completed?